

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF JODY NAZARCHYK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing and honor the wonderful life of Waterford, Connecticut Selectwoman Jody Nazarchyk. Jody was a tireless public servant and community activist who showed unrivaled dedication to the well-being of her family and her town. The outpouring of praise and love for her from all corners of Waterford after news of her loss was a powerful statement of the impact she made on generations of town residents, young and old.

Born on January 15, 1952, to Josephine and John DeAngelis, Jody grew up in West Hartford, Connecticut. She attended St. Timothy's grade school and Mount St. Joseph's Academy who imbued in her a deep religious faith and spirituality. I was her classmate at St. Timothy's and she stood out, even at a young age, as a caring, kind person who put others ahead of herself. Beginning with her time supporting the Hartford Catholic Youth Organization alongside her father, the spirit of volunteerism was instilled within Jody throughout her family upbringing. From coaching both boys' baseball and girls' cheerleading, to running the school newspaper and serving as president of her class and captain of the cheer team, her record of volunteer service started early and continued unabated until the end of her life.

Early in her 20s, Jody moved to Waterford upon the completion of her education. There, she was closer to her extended family and, as fate would have it, her life soulmate, Rich Nazarchyk whom she married and raised four wonderful children. This move was not only a pivotal event for her personally, but also it turned out a decisive boon for the Town of Waterford.

Jody, who came to be known as both the "conscience of Waterford" and "Waterford's mom," always stood up for her community. This first became apparent in 1991 when she helped found the town's youth service bureau. In fact, advocating for the town's children was a central tenant to her work. In 2012, for example, when funding for freshman high school sports were threatened, Jody stood for her community, protected those programs from being cut, and ensured her town's youth had early access to athletic development. As a result, it was Jody who had sown seeds of town pride and indirectly supported Waterford gaining eight state championships since that year. It is no wonder that she is honored in the Waterford Sports Hall of Fame.

Outside of youth athletics, Jody also recognized the importance of a formational education and made sure to support students in the classroom. For 25 years, she served as a member of the Waterford Board of Education, where she was a tireless advocate for the

wellbeing of students, teachers, and parents. Her service culminated in her election to the position of Chair of the Board, where she was able to more effectively bridge the interests of students and parents alike. As a testament to her work, she was recognized as a Champion for Children by the town in 2014.

Jody's advocacy stretched beyond Waterford's borders and was felt across the entire region. She was especially dedicated to serving those who risked the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country. With this in mind, Jody positioned herself into an instrumental role in ensuring Southeast Connecticut veterans were recognized and cared for. A founding member of the Waterford coffee house. Jody would take care of local veterans—from Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners to ensuring they receive the appreciation they deserve.

Jody was instrumental in shaping Waterford into the haven for families that it is today. She taught CCD at St. Paul's, served on the Southwest Elementary and Clark Lane Parent Teacher Organizations, and was a Little League Coach. She also helped inspire the founding of Camp Dash, a full day summer camp for children who have working parents. She was most recently elected to the Board of Selectmen in 2019, where she fought for the interests of her neighbors through to her final days.

Mr. Speaker, after losing contact with Jody for decades after we went separate paths from St. Timothy's, it was a great joy for me to reconnect with her in the public affairs and events in Waterford. I enjoyed seeing her more recently during the veteran's coffee houses in town, where she, of course, helped serve breakfast, organize the room and schedule of activities. At its latest coffee house gathering a few days ago, the packed room of veterans had a solemn moment of silence in her honor.

Mr. Speaker, Jody Nazarchyk will be remembered as a positive, irrepressible force for the Town of Waterford. Although the void left by her sudden passing will be impossible to fill, we can find solace in the fact that her legacy of compassionate, selfless service will now be carried on by the thousands she touched throughout her life. She is specifically survived by her husband of 43 years, Rick Nazarchyk; children, Richard, Jodie, Justin, Jamie; and their children; as well as her brother and sister-in-law, Jordy and Patty DeAngelis. We should all look to Jody's example to ensure her torch of exemplary citizenship does not extinguish. To this end, I ask my colleagues to join me and the citizens of Waterford in honoring Jody's life and work.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JIM LANGAN

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jim Langan, a longtime friend who passed away on February 15 of this year.

Jim was a friend to all who knew him, and will long be remembered for his love of life. He had a brilliant mind, a quick wit, and a powerful pen. He was a steward of that most sacred first amendment and understood the value of public service.

I will forever be grateful for our friendship, dialogue, and debate. He enriched the life of our community and lives of those who live here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Jim Langan. While we mourn his passing, we celebrate his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his life and memory always be a blessing.

HONORING MR. JIM SPERING ON HIS 36 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friend and incredible public servant, Mr. Jim Sperring upon his retirement from the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Throughout his career in public service, Mr. Sperring diligently advocated for the communities of Solano County and Suisun City, working to bolster local infrastructure and address land-use issues in the area through investments in critical projects.

Mr. Sperring's service to the Solano community spans over three decades, including 16 years as Solano County Supervisor and 20 years as Suisun City Mayor. In each of these positions, Mr. Sperring never lost sight of his responsibility to the citizens of Suisun City and Solano County, measuring success in his role by the lives improved through service and policy.

During his tenure as Solano County Supervisor, Mr. Sperring prioritized important investments in transportation infrastructure, most recently reflected in the opening of the full Highway 12 connector lanes into Solano County. Additionally, he was instrumental in the formation of the Solano Transportation Authority and the Amtrak Capitol Corridor intercity rail service, linking Sacramento and the Bay Area. His efforts not only modernized his community's infrastructure, making it safer and more efficient, but also improved the quality of life for Solano County residents.

In addition to his tireless work to improve Solano's transit systems, Mr. Sperring also

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